

**Cowboy music**

TV performers entertain, film upcoming shows

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Fort Riley Post

'Dragons' battle

4th IBCT takes time for pre-Thanksgiving flag football tournament.

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Friday, December 9, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 49

Around The Army**Korea:**

The Pacific Stars and Stripes reported Dec. 8 that the South Korean government released details of a plan to spend \$19 billion to improve infrastructure, upgrade technology and expand public space in Pyeongyang, the future home to much of the U.S. military in South Korea.

Some of the money will go toward buying land to house U.S. military operations there, said Park Yong-uk, a ministry official.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the Pacific and European theaters, visit www.estripes.com/ on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported Dec. 1 that new canister rounds developed for use in the M1A1 Abrams impressed tankers viewing a demonstration.

The 16th Cavalry Regiment with support from TSM Abrams provided information and a live fire demonstration of the first M1028 canister rounds to be fired on Fort Knox.

The canister round is the newest 102mm tank main gun ammunition now available to the Armor Force, and has been deployed in the Middle East. Soldiers and Marines who have handled and fired the round in preparation for deployment to Iraq have stated that with a bit of practice the round can be handled in much the same way as the other 120mm rounds in the inventory.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox, Ky., news, visit www.thenewsenterprise.com/turret/ on the Web.

Hawaii:

The Hawaii Army Weekly reported Dec. 2 that the 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, filed a motion in U.S. District Court to amend its settlement agreement to amend its settlement agreement and Malama Makua.

The Army's motion seeks to have the court modify the 2001 settlement agreement between the Army and plaintiffs that has prohibited live-fire training at Makua Valley since late 2004.

The modification would allow the Army to resume live-fire training at Makua Valley in preparation for its upcoming deployment to combat in Iraq.

Makua provides the only training area on Oahu where 25th Div. units can conduct combined arms live-fire exercises and convoy live-fire exercises.

For more on this story and other Army news in Hawaii, visit www.25id.army.mil/haw.asp on the Web.

Fort Myer:

The Pentagon reported Dec. 2 that lunch time diners at the Fort Myer dining facility Dec. 1 may have been surprised to see Soldiers waiting to greet rock music stars Stevie Nicks and Mick Fleetwood.

For more on this story and other Fort Myer, Va., and Washington, D.C., area news, visit www.dcmilitary.com/armypentagram/index.html on the Web.

New rule restricts cell phone use

Staff report

Drivers using cell phones on Fort Riley can expect warning citations now through the rest of the month, and tickets beginning Jan. 1, Post Safety Officer Paul Inman said Dec. 6.

A new provision in the Code of Federal Regulations (Title 32, Part 634, Section 634.25) prohibits drivers in privately owned vehicles on Department of Defense installations from talking on a cell phone unless they use a hands-free device or are parked

out of the traffic flow.

Drivers of government vehicles cannot use cell phones while driving but can use cell phone hands-free devices while driving. They can use a cell phone only if the government vehicle is parked.

The state of Kansas will initiate

the same law regarding cell phone usage while driving, effective Jan. 1, Inman said.

The CFR provision also prohibits the wearing of any portable headphones, earphones or listening devices not used with a cell phone. It also recognizes the dis-

traction other actions and devices, including eating and drinking, operating radios, CD players, global positioning equipment and others, may pose to drivers. It recommends doing those activities and the use of such devices only while parked.

Done ... in 9 days



2nd Bn., 291st Avn. Regt. photo
Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 291st Avn. Regt., supervise the removal of the aft pylon on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at night at the Lawton, Okla., airport. The 2nd Bn., 291st Avn., Soldiers and members of the mobilized Co. B, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., conducted 24-hour operations to complete a nine-day mobilization mission.

Aviation units respond to call for rapid move

By Russell Stark

Instructor pilot

Mobilization orders handed members of a small, unique unit at Fort Riley a unique challenge recently – a Presidential Directive to mobilize an aviation unit to support earthquake relief efforts in Pakistan.

Not a problem, really, except the mobilization had to be completed in nine days and much of the unit's staff already was tasked with a mobilization exercise at Fort Hood, Texas.

The battalion's response to the directive: "Can do, Sir!"

The 2nd Battalion, 291st Aviation Regiment (Training Support – Aviation) calls Marshall Army Airfield at Fort Riley home. Its mission is to provide training and mobilization assistance and readiness assessments to select reserve component utility, assault, heavy lift, air traffic services, air ambulance and aviation maintenance units in the Fifth U.S. Army area of responsibility and to provide combatant commanders with trained and ready forces.

The "Reaper Battalion" commanded by Lt. Col. Eduardo Gutierrez has executed numerous mobilizations, but the Presidential Directive mission was unlike any other they had received.

This opportunity to excel came over the Columbus Day weekend while 2nd Bn. Members were conducting a mobilization exercise at Fort Hood. The new mission reduced the team at Fort Hood by two thirds. Those not staying in Texas packed up their equipment and drove to Fort Sill, Okla., within 12 hours of getting the added mission. The battalion recalled the rest of its members at Fort Riley and produced temporary duty orders for them. The recalled Soldiers loaded their equipment and drove to Fort Sill in less than 18 hours.

Normally, the ordered mobilization process requires a training cycle of about 117 days, but the Presidential Directive allowed only nine days because of the seriousness of the situation in Pakistan.

The 117-day period is required to accomplish the

See *Aviators*, Page 2

Memorial service honors two post Soldiers

13th Armor sergeants remembered for military skills, sincere human traits

By Anna Perry

19th PAD

Family members, friends and co-workers gathered at Morris Hill chapel on post Dec. 6 to honor the 60th and 61st Fort Riley Soldiers to die in the Global War

on Terrorism.

Sgt. Donald J. Hasse, 28, and Jerry W. Mills Jr., 23, both assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, were killed Nov. 29 while conducting combat operations near Taji, Iraq. Both were on their second deployment.

Sgt. Donald J. Hasse

Home: Wichita Falls, Texas
Unit: Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor

Hasse, a tank crew member, was killed Nov. 29 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his "Humvee" while his unit was conducting combat operations in Taji, Iraq. It was his second deployment to Iraq. He enlisted in October 1995 and arrived at Fort Riley in March 2003.

Hasse was posthumously promoted to sergeant. Awards: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart.



Sgt. Chris Wilson, a fellow noncommissioned officer, spoke on behalf of some of Hasse's close friends and co-workers during the memorial service.

"Hasse was full of life, energy and a passion to do his job," one Soldier had written. "When talking about his family, he would light up with a smile, especially when speaking about his son."

"I consider Sgt. Hasse a friend, and it was a privilege and honor to know him," Wilson added.

"He would often smile and joke, and even take his fake teeth out to make us laugh," said Sgt. 1st Class Bill Riel.

While Hasse was fun-loving, he also had a serious side, said Lt. Col. Kevin West.

He felt the need to serve his country during this time of trouble, even signing up for another term less than two weeks ago, West added.

Sgt. Jerry W. Mills Jr.

Home: Arkansas City, Kan.
Unit: Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor

Mills, a tank crew member, was killed Nov. 29 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his "Humvee" while the unit was conducting combat operations in Taji, Iraq. It was his second deployment to Iraq. He enlisted in June 2001 and arrived at Fort Riley in November 2001.

Mills was posthumously promoted to sergeant.

Awards: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal.



Mills was also known for his dedication to his country. "During the first deployment to Iraq, I was impressed with his dedication, courage and selfless service," said Sgt. Paul Belt.

"Mills was very intelligent and had a great deal of common sense," Belt said on behalf of another Soldier. "He was a hard worker who could handle any task

See *Memorial*, Page 2





Post news in brief

Volunteers graduate

Dental Command at Fort Riley graduated six volunteers Nov. 15 from its Red Cross Dental Assistant Program. Graduates were Barbara Dodge, Connie Mille, Sheena Carter, Andrea Doyle, Gabby Torkornoo and Amanda Vasquez.

These individual were involved in an intense two-week Basic Dental Terminology course followed by 800 hours of chair-side dental assisting at Dental Clinics No. 3 and 4.

Anyone interested in a career in dental assisting should contact the Dental Command's Headquarters at 239-7268 to ask for more information and when the next program is starting.

CID offers \$500 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft of tools and Motorola radios from a Mortenson construction site.

The tools and radios were stolen between Oct. 7 and 10 from a white connex located within the construction site adjacent to Building 7227 on Fort Riley.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call Special Agent Matt Hodges at 239-3931 or the Fort Riley military police at 239-6767.



2nd Bn., 291st Avn. Regt. photo

Aviation personnel assigned to 2nd Bn., 291st Avn. Regt., and Co. B, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., load a CH-47 Chinook helicopter through the nose of an Air Force C5 Galaxy transport plane at the Lawton, Okla., airport.

Aviators continued from page 1

necessary training for a battalion-sized aviation unit or a large aviation company. The tasks selected for training are a combination of events ranging from individual common skills training, aviator proficiency training and collective training events. The selected training tasks support the mobilizing commander's mission-essential task list.

Upon receiving the mission, the "Reaper Battalion" formulated a comprehensive training plan that would benefit the mobilizing unit the most in the short amount of time allotted. This plan could not interfere with the mobilization process already under way.

In addition to its training efforts, the battalion assisted in fielding new equipment the unit would require to fulfill their mis-

sion in-country. Members of the 2nd Bn., 291st Avn. Regt., also identified, located and coordinated shipment of critical transportability equipment to facilitate the helicopter teardown process.

Training included an aerial gunnery range that was completely planned and executed by the battalion's non-commissioned officers, resulting in 27 non-crew members qualifying on their weapon system.

Additionally, the Army Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization provided academic instruction for performance planning and instruction and flight training in air combat maneuvering flight. The battalion, in conjunction with DES, provided instruction for the newly assigned standardization section concern-

ing the implementation of the aircrew training program.

Other battalion personnel simultaneously assisted the unit with the fielding of new equipment and preparing the helicopters for tear down and loading into a C5 "Galaxy" transport aircraft.

The battalion coordinated the fielding of more than 90 air warrior systems and 36 M240 machine guns for the deploying aircraft.

Also, battalion personnel supervised the aircraft tear down process to ensure it was done safely and in a timely manner.

At the close of the ninth day, Soldiers of Company B, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation, were en route to Pakistan with their aircraft aboard C5 aircraft.

Commanders get OK to help

New authority speeds relief

By Anna Morelock

Staff writer

A Soldier's car breaks down while he's away from Fort Riley. He spends \$300 to get it fixed and finish driving home. That \$300 was money the family planned to use to buy groceries.

Will they go hungry? Not necessarily.

Army Emergency Relief can help, and a new program cuts the time a Soldier spends getting the relief.

In emergency situations, Soldiers normally would go to the Fort Riley Army Emergency Relief section at the Soldier and Family Support Center, fill out an application for relief, be interviewed and then pick up their relief check.

With the new Commanders Referral Program, the needed financial assistance can get to the Soldier's wallet much faster.

After company level commanders complete an hour-long training class on the program, they can immediately authorize up to \$1,000 for a Soldier in need of AER assistance. AER officials hope this new, faster program will deter Soldiers from using predatory lenders in emergency situations.

AER hasn't seen much participation in the program yet, said

Judith Moseley, AER/financial readiness manager at Fort Riley.

Moseley speculated that many commanders are content with the way the system is currently set up and might not realize the new program will allow commanders to approve assistance for their Soldiers.

Soldiers' spouses cannot use the Commanders Referral Program, but they can apply for AER relief through other programs. Because this program does not include spouses and many Fort Riley Soldiers are deployed could also be reasons for the lagging participation, Moseley suggested.

More opportunities exist for commanders to attend the required training. Commanders can have their first sergeants also take the training, so first sergeants can approve the AER financial aid whenever the commander is not available.

Dates for upcoming training are:

10 to 11 a.m., Dec. 16

2 to 3 p.m., Jan. 9

1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Jan. 30

Those wishing to participate should call 239-9450 or 239-9435 to register no later than close of business two days before the training. Training will be canceled if no participants register by close of business two days before the class.

Memorial continued from page 1

without supervision."

Mills was known for always smiling and having the ability to make others laugh, West said.

Mills was described by his sergeants as tough and by his peers as an incredible Soldier who carried out tasks professionally, effectively and with great precision, West said.

"While these two men were different, they were also very similar," West said. "Both were known throughout their company as solid Soldiers, and both took an immense pride in their chosen profession."

"These men embodied the values of selfless service and personal courage," West added.

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All charges dropped against lieutenant

Staff report

All charges preferred against 2nd Lt. Erick J. Anderson of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, have been dismissed.

Anderson had been charged on Oct. 3, 2005, with two specifications of conspiracy to commit murder, two specifications of murder, dereliction of duty, making a false official statement and two specifications of conduct unbecoming an officer.

All charges stemmed from two separate incidents that occurred while Anderson was deployed to Iraq.

Those incidences involved an alleged mercy killing of one Iraqi teenager suffering severe burns and wounds.

The other incident involved the fatal shooting of an Iraqi found in a home Anderson's patrol was searching.

An Article 32, Uniform Code of Military Justice, pre-

trial investigation into the charges was conducted Nov. 16 and 17 at Fort Riley.

"The purpose of the Article 32 investigation was to inquire into the truth of the allegations set forth in the charges and to ensure that 2nd Lt. Anderson was afforded a thorough and impartial investigation of all matters prior to any of the charges being referred to a court martial," said Lt. Col. David D. Velloney, Fort Riley deputy staff judge advocate.

"The investigation is complete, the convening authority has dismissed the charges, and unless any significant new and substantially credible information comes to light, there will be no further investigation. The case is closed," Velloney said.

Anderson will continue to perform duties at Fort Riley as an officer within 1st Bn., 41st Inf., and will no longer face any suspension of favorable personnel actions.

Crews move fast to repair storm damage

Editor's note: Information for this article was provided by Pam Newman, chief of military family housing; Keith Jevons of DPW; and Larry Githerman, chief of DOL.

Staff report

Almost two weeks after a tornado tore its way through part of the Ellis Heights housing area Nov. 27, residential life there is returning to a semblance of what it used to be.

The tornado ripped off siding and shingles, destroyed windows, snapped off trees and generally made the neighborhood look like the aftermath of a battle. Since then, Directorate of Public Works and other crews have devoted hundreds of man hours to putting everything back together.

First and foremost, broken glass was removed from inside and outside the homes and broken windows were boarded up carefully to keep the cold winter wind out.

The housing maintenance con-

tractor, J&J/BMAR, employees worked steadily to replace carpeting where shattered glass was found.

Steckman Heating and Plumbing immediately identified and repaired displaced flues to eliminate the hazard of possible gas leaks.

Best Pest Control was tasked with cleaning up the area's storm damage. Company employees also identified all trees in the housing area that need to be pruned or removed and have developed a replacement plan. The pruning and removal will be on-going, but the planting of good-sized replacement trees will take place in the March and April time frame.

Siding and shingles are being patched as well as the weather conditions will allow. Complete roofing and siding of the buildings will be done when the temperature allows for the best installation.

Mailboxes are being reinstalled and the trash carts that blew away with the wind have been replaced.

All damaged windows were measured individually for replacement so they could be manufactured immediately and sent to Fort Riley for installation. All broken single-pane glass has been replaced and the double-

1 family's story

The Masseys have moved back into their quarters in Ellis Heights. Read on page 13 what they have to say about their experience.

paned windows are being installed as they are received.

At this time, all quarters are safe and habitable; but many residents will be without a view for another week or so until their windows are replaced. Thirty-seven buildings containing 100 family homes suffered some damage. Some damage was only to shingles.

Eight families were provided temporary housing in post lodging and at the Day's Inn in Junction City. They returned to their quarters as repairs were finished.

It is expected that repair costs to the housing portion of the tornado damage will be in the neighborhood of \$900,000.

Already Ellis Heights looks almost normal, and all displaced families have returned. This transformation went quickly not just because contractors completed job orders quickly, but because Soldiers and families living in the

housing area pitched in and did what was necessary to restore normalcy to their neighborhood.

Cemetery cleanup had been mostly completed by Dec. 5, except for one very large tree that will require extra effort to remove because of its size and location. The goal is not to damage any more headstones during its removal.

Forty-four white Veterans Administration headstones were damaged by the storm. Directorate of Logistics personnel at Fort Riley are in the process of ordering replacement headstones.

The cemetery is open now for burials, and one was planned for Dec. 7 and another for Dec. 9.

LESCO, the Directorate of Logistics' vehicle maintenance contractor, provided numerous employees for the cleanup. More than 15 of its workers assisted Public Works crews all week following the tornado to clear access roads of fallen trees and branches.

Public Works heavy equipment and chain saw operators cut down damaged trees and removed uprooted trees without further damage to cemetery headstones.

About 50 stumps in the cemetery still must be removed. The resulting holes will be filled with soil and seeded with grass. Plans also are to plant new trees.

**Got a news tip?
Call the editor at 239-8854.
Let's talk.**

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Post news in brief

CID offers \$500 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft of government property.

Between Oct. 1 and 7, a person or persons broke into a storage locker in the Bulk Storage Area, Room 315, Building 7002B, on Fort Riley and stole the Central Issue Facility equipment.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call Special Agent Jeffrey W. Lasley at 239-8641 or the Fort Riley military police at 239-6767.

Employer plans post job fair

A representative of Anteon Corporation will be at the Fort Riley Army Career and Alumni Program Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 15 and from 8 a.m. to noon Dec. 16 in Room 6 of Building 210.

This event is open to the public. Registration is not required.

For more information, contact the Fort Riley ACAP Center at 239-2278.

Talent sought for observance

The Fort Riley Equal Opportunity Office staff is looking for individuals to participate in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observance from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Jan. 11 at Riley's Conference Center.

Talent being sought includes poetry, singing and dancing. Anyone interested in participating as part of the program should call 239-8433.

Fort Riley to appear on TV shows

By Nicole Robus

19th PAD

"I wanted to do something in the heart of America. I wanted to do something for the troops, so I called Deb Skidmore and she said 'yes.' Then I called up my coworkers and said, 'hey we are going to do this show at Fort Riley,'" said Tom Seay, executive producer, co-host and trailmaster of "Best of America by Horseback."

Doug Sloan echoed Tom's sentiments. "We wanted to do something to say thank you to the troops. You see so much negative. I don't believe the negative. Seeing the deployment ceremony, made me proud to be an American," said Sloan, co-host and producer of "Best of America by Horseback."

The co-producers and performers in the show attended the 300th Military Police Company deployment ceremony at King Field House Nov. 28.

"It touched me to see the young men and women who have volunteered to serve their country," Sloan said.

Not only did the experience make me feel good about the Army, but about American youth

in general. In the (300th MP) company, there is an example of what good Americans are," Sloan said.

"Everything I have heard from these troops was about team not 'I.' I met with a Soldier and he was worried about his troops first and himself second," Sloan said. "I had seen a lot of heart in the Soldiers here at Fort Riley."

From the deployment ceremony, the group went to the 1st Brigade dining facility where some of the performers played for the troops.

"At first I wasn't sure how it would go. This was the first time I had done this. But after I started, I got the feeling that the troops were very appreciative of what we were doing for them," said Delbert Shields, a resident of Humboldt, Kan., about three hours southeast of Fort Riley.

Shields is a cowboy singer, songwriter, poet and humorist. From the dining facility the group headed to the Main Post Exchange to meet with the elves of Operation Santa Claus.

Members of the group "buddied" up with elves to shop for toys for children up to 14 years old. Participating in Operation Santa Claus was a great deal of

Want to watch?

The show will be aired on RFD (Rural Family Development) Channel 379 on DirecTV and on Dish TV Channel 9409. As of now, the schedule for airing is 3 p.m. EST Dec. 23 and 6 p.m. EST Dec. 25.

Charter Communications' cablevision Channel 2 on Fort Riley will air the show following "In Step With Fort Riley" Dec. 24, 25 and 26.

The "Best of America by Horseback" show filmed at Fort Riley the end of November and beginning of December will air in 2006.

For more information about "Best of America by Horseback," visit www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com on the Web. "Best of America by Horseback" producers want to hear the thoughts and feelings of Fort Riley servicemembers and their families about the visit to Fort Riley. Send e-mail to andora-farms@aol.net.

fun, and knowing where the toys were going was exciting and knowing they would make someone smile was a great feeling, Shields said.

Seay and Cheryl Walker echoed Shields' sentiments. "It was heartwarming to see everyone come together for this cause. It was a joy to give back to the troops for all they give to their country," Seay said.

"It was a blast to come alongside the troops and seeing them help their community. It shows

that Soldiers not only help on the battlefield but in the community as well," said Walker, music director for "Best of America by Horseback."

The TV group next visited Irwin Army Community Hospital to perform for the Soldiers there. "The highlight of coming to Fort Riley was being able to perform for those Soldiers who are recovering from injuries sustained in Iraq," Shields said. "This was something worthwhile. It wasn't about me. It was about them," she added.

It was good to hear that high lonesome bluegrass sound filling the hallways of the hospital, said Christopher Lowery, chief of the Customer Service Division at IACH.

Shields and the other perform-

ers also entertained post residents at a concert in the Soldier and Family Support Center Nov. 29.

The concert was incredible. The troops were really into it. They sang along with me when I sang 'The Dance' by Garth Brooks. It was hard for me at first. I had a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye but as I went on it got easier," Shields said.

Other performers in the concert were Judy Coder and Pride of the Prairie, Gary Pratt.

TJ Casey, Mars Hill Porch Pickers, Scott Taylor and Dead Men's Hollow.

"I actually enjoyed myself. I am not a big country music fan," said Tina Osterman, relocation readiness and Soldier and Family Support Center webmaster.

"I came away from the show with a sense that the performers were there for the Soldiers and their families and that they really cared about each one of them," Osterman added.

"I really hope others watch the show. It would be well worth it. One of the performers sang a song that was meant for the troops here, and it was very touching," Osterman said.

Spc. George Barry echoed Osterman's thoughts. "Seeing the performance made me feel pretty good, knowing that they appreciate the troops. They actually cared about us and they conveyed that in the performance," said Barry, who is assigned to the Rear Detachment of 2nd Battalion,

IACH.

See TV show, Page 6



Post/Blackmon

Performers entertain Soldiers and family members at the Fort Riley Soldier and Family Support Center Nov. 29. The concert was filmed and will be aired on DirecTV and Dish TV Dec. 32 and 25, respectively, as well as on Fort Riley's cable TV channel 2 Dec. 24-26.

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Commentary

Friday, December 9, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What do you do to relieve physical or mental stress?



"Play video games. First person shooter games like James Bond."

Chris Faskett
Sales Rep for Sprint
Home: Manhattan, Kan.



"Go out to Aggieville, that's all there is to do around here. Places like Rusty's."

Pvt. Brandon Hicks
Cannon crewmember
1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery
Home: Abilene, Texas



"Work out and hang out with other Soldiers."

Pvt. William Johnson
Cannon crewmember
1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery
Home: Oklahoma City



"I count to 10."

Jace Rinehart
Third-grader
Wakefield Elementary School
Home: Fort Bragg, N.C.



"I take a hot bath, go shopping, just get out of the house."

Irina Wachtstetter
Services and vending
AAFES
Home: Kazan, Russia

Response by e-mail:

"I workout at Craig gym every afternoon, plus the gym has an awesome staff!"

Spc. Roberto Loo
Medic
1st Bn., 34th Armor
Home: Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.

Next week's question:

If you could change one thing at Fort Riley, what would you change?

The Post will print personal opinions and commentary about issues affecting the lives of Soldiers and military families.

Such commentary must not contain libelous material, personal accusations or erroneous facts. Personal views must be supported by facts stated in the commentary. All commentary articles must include the writer's complete name and a phone number where he or she can be reached by the editor.

Letters to the editor also are invited. The same standards applied to commentary articles apply to the contents of letters submitted for publication.

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592.

Editor's note: This is the first of two articles discussing diabetes, a disease affecting millions of people in their mid-40s and later.

By Bethany Deschamps
OIC, Nutrition Care

Diabetes is a physiological condition that affects the way the body uses energy from carbohydrates, which is glucose or sugar. The problem that occurs is that insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas, isn't being produced or doesn't work correctly in the body and therefore, can't be used properly for energy metabolism. Because of this, the body cannot control blood sugar levels normally. Instead of glucose "feeding" the cells, it accumulates in the blood, spills into urine and is excreted from the body. High blood glucose levels



Capt. Bethany Deschamps

Nearly 21 million people in the United States live with this disease. This number is expected to double in the next 25 years. While about 14.6 million have been diagnosed with the disease, an estimated 6.2 million people are unaware they have diabetes. The age group the disease affects the most includes people who are 60 and older. Estimates state that 8.6 million, or 18.3 percent of all people in this age

can cause damage to the kidneys, eyes, nerves and the heart. Diabetes has become more and more common in the past 20 years.

group, have diabetes.

In 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the American Diabetes Association estimated that nearly 16 million Americans were affected with pre-diabetes, which raises the risk for developing diabetes by 50 percent.

Most people with pre-diabetes are apt to develop diabetes within a decade if they do not make modest changes to dietary habits and physical activity.

Early detection of diabetes is important. The longer the disease goes undetected and unmanaged, the greater the damage to the body. The most common type of diabetes is type 2, which accounts for 90 to 95 percent of all cases.

Risk factors for type 2 diabetes include being over age 45, have a close family member with diabetes, being African-American, Hispanic or Native American,

can, being overweight or obese, being physically inactive, having low HDL cholesterol levels or high triglycerides and having had gestational diabetes or delivering a baby weighing nine pounds or more.

Common symptoms for diabetes include frequent urination, unusual thirst, extreme hunger, unusual weight loss, extreme fatigue and irritability. Simple blood tests can be done to determine if a person has diabetes. Consult a physician to be tested.

For more dietary advice or other information about diabetes, visit the American Diabetes Association website at <http://www.diabetes.org> or contact the Irwin Army Community Hospital Nutrition Care Division at (785) 239-7644.

Editor's note: The next article will appear Dec. 16. It will discuss what diabetes can do to control the disease.

To your health

Diabetics face special diet concerns

War on terrorism

Security level measures success in Iraq



Gen. Peter Pace

Editor's note: The following comments were made by Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on PBS's "The NewsHour With Lehrer" Nov. 7 and reported in an American Forces Press Service article written by Jim Garamone.

Security, not body counts, is the true measure of success in Iraq. Iraqis providing security to Iraqis is the true measure of success. This is not about killing of people. It is about providing security for people. It would be a mistake for people to

start counting bodies of insurgents and foreign fighters. That would send the wrong message to American troops and to Iraqi civilians. Anyone who, in the past, has been counting bodies has been presenting the wrong measure of success.

The correct measure of Coalition and Iraqi success is how much of the country is being controlled by Coalition forces, especially Iraqi forces.

Right now, an Iraqi division, four Iraqi brigades and 24 Iraqi battalions are taking over responsibility for various sectors of the country.

They will get another opportunity

as operations in and around Husaybah, near Iraq's border with Syria, continue. Some 2,500 Marines and 1,000 Iraqi troops are conducting operations in the city of 30,000. The idea is that once the Coalition forces establish security in the city, the Iraqis will remain and maintain that security.

We measure success of this operation by how quickly we are able to establish Iraqi government control of the area, and we measure success by watching as time goes on the ability of the Iraqi armed forces and the Iraqi police to continue to provide that security.

Letter to editor

Mothers suffer, too, when Soldiers leave

My son is Staff Sgt. Gary W. Walton Jr. He is serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, in Iraq. I came across the following piece on the Internet, author unknown, but describing very well what mothers go through when their sons go off to war.

I am the mother....

You see me every day going about life as usual - or so it appears. I rub shoulders with you at work. I shop at Wal-Mart and the grocery store. I fill my car at the corner gas station. You might see me anywhere.

Don't be deceived: My life has not been normal for months. I am the mother of an American Soldier. Although I continue the routines of life, I do so with a burdened heart and distracted mind. There are some tell-tale signs of who I am. I'm the one with the frayed yellow ribbon pinned on my clothing. It was fresh and new when my son first deployed months ago.

Even though the war is supposedly over, my son is in a place where bullets and grenades are still killing our Soldiers. I am determined to wear my ribbon until he comes home, because it reminds me to pray for him every minute. When you see me wearing that ribbon, please stop and whisper a prayer for him and all the others still there.

My house is the one with the faded yellow ribbons around the tree in the yard and one on the mail poster. There is an American flag on a pole attached to the front porch and a small red-and-white banner with a blue star in the middle of my window. When my son gave this to me before he left, I told him that I never wanted to cover the blue star with a gold one. Gold Star Mothers are the ones whose sons come home in body bags.

When you drive by a house of this description, please pray for the son or daughter overseas and for the parents waiting inside for their child to come home.

To those of you who have posted yellow ribbons at your house or in the windows of your schools, thank you. It warms my heart every time I see your expressions of support for our troops.

One of the hardest things about being the mother of an American Soldier is living 1,500 miles (how about 2,600 miles!) away from the post of my son's unit. Wives usually live on or near the fort, where they can glean support from others in the same situation. But a mother may live across the nation, so she feels totally alone.

Letters rarely make their way home, and if they do, it is weeks after they were written. We go more than a month without hearing anything; then we might get a short phone call. E-mail is out of the question most of the time.

Every week is like a roller-coaster ride that I want to get off. When I read a Soldier has been killed and his name has not been released pending notification of kin, restlessness, depression and insomnia rule my life until 24 hours have passed and the men in dress uniforms have not appeared at my door. I pray constantly they will never come.

When you hold your baby close, remember we mothers of American Soldiers held our babies, too. Now our "babies" are putting themselves in harm's way for your babies.

And if you see a woman at the store buying tuna and crackers, beef jerky, powdered Gatorade, baby wipes and potted meat, check to see if she is wearing a yellow ribbon. If so, stop and pray for her. She is probably the mother of an American Soldier getting ready to send her child another care package. You may see tears in her eyes or dark circles under them.

I am there among you, trying to carry on some semblance of a normal life. Like so many others, I am the mother of an American Soldier.

— Ann Price
A Soldier's mother

Grunt By Wayne Uhden

WHY STICK
A FINGER IN A PROBLEM
WHEN YOU CAN DIVE
IN WITH BOTH BOOTS...



FORT RILEY POST

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Post news in brief

Medical staff updates AKO

Soldiers will now find it easier to get their physical exam information updated in Army Knowledge Online. Effective Dec. 1, Army medical treatment facilities began to enter physical exam data directly into the database that populates the Soldier's AKO account. Previous to the new policy, Soldiers had to take a copy of their physical or a memorandum with the information to their local personnel support unit in order to get physical examination data updated.

All active duty physical exams at Fort Riley are completed at the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic. Once the physical has been completed, the clinic will put the Soldier's physical exam data into the database.

Commander plans address

Col. Thomas "Ty" Smith plans to address Fort Riley civilian employees in two sessions Jan. 9. The first session begins at 10 a.m. and the second begins at 1:30 p.m. Both sessions will be in Barlow Theater, Building 7866, on Custer Hill. Employees need attend only one session.



Post/Skidmore

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Executive Producer of Best of America By Horseback Tom Seay and Co-producer of the show Doug Sloan ride through historic Main Post. The producers, director and camera operators were on Fort Riley to tape a segment of the show which will air next spring on the RFD network.

TV show

continued from page 4

34th Armor.

Some of the performers took something away from the concert, as well.

"It was a life-building experience for me just to see the mentality of the folks here. I have a greater appreciation of what goes on in their lives. It was both a humbling and an uplifting experience," Shields said.

Toward the conclusion of filming for the "Best of America by Horseback" show on post, the crew spent some time with the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

"The color guard put on a demonstration for us, and I was impressed with the horsemanship ... When the riders would miss a jump, they would ride through it instead of jerking the horse back. Jerking the horse isn't good for them. To me, that is great horsemanship," Sloan said.

In the afternoon on Nov. 30, "Best of America by Horseback" drew met with two spouses and a warrant officer who keep their horses at the personal stables on post.

It was great to see how the horses helped the spouses deal with the deployment of their husbands, Sloan said.

"Best of America by Horseback" filming ended with a historic horseback ride through Fort Riley's Main Post.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley commanding general, Division Command Sgt. Maj. Marvell Dean; Col. William Perkins, Fort Riley chief of staff; Col. Thomas Smith, U.S. Army Garrison commander; Bill McKale, Fort Riley museum coordinator, Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Stonehouse, CGMCG commander; Sgt. 1st Class Jim Blecha, the color guard's noncommissioned-officer-in-charge; other CGMCG members; Seay and Sloan.

"Riding with the general and the chief of staff was a personal highlight for me. It was beyond my expectations. During the ride, it was great to hear the general's personal feeling about the troops on Fort Riley.

"I have never seen a military officer that has been respected so much and has the compassion for his troops as (Maj.) Gen. Hardy," Seay said.

"If Hardy is a representative of the leadership of the U.S. Army today, all of us have a bright future," Seay added.

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Post news in brief

Tax program needs workers

The 2006 Fort Riley Tax Assistance Program needs individuals willing to volunteer to help Soldiers and military families file tax returns.

No experience is necessary, but individuals with previous tax experiences are encouraged to volunteer to help part-time at the Fort Riley Tax Center.

Volunteer tax preparation clerks receive the same training as paid preparers, learn tax preparation skills and have the opportunity to help members of the Army community.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Capt. Christopher Callicott at 239-3117.

E-7 board to convene

The fiscal year 2006 sergeant first class promotion board will convene Jan. 31.

Eligibility criteria for promotion consideration to sergeant first class are those Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course qualified staff sergeants who have a date of rank of Feb. 1, 2004, or earlier and basic active duty service date between Feb. 1, 1985, and Jan. 31, 2000, both dates inclusive.

Staff sergeants with a date of rank of Feb. 1, 2003, or earlier will be considered in the primary zone.

Those with a date of rank of Feb. 2, 2003, through Feb. 1, 2004, will be considered in the secondary zone.

Staff sergeants have until Jan. 13, 2006, to validate their Web enlisted records brief, submit a digital photograph, submit documents to their official military personnel file and provide NCO enlisted records to the Enlisted Records Evaluation Center.

BNCOC graduation is a requirement for consideration by this board. However, all staff sergeants who meet other criteria should update their records.

If Headquarters, Department of the Army, determines that the reason an NCO does not have BNCOC is due to the Army's inability to schedule the training, or as a direct result of operational deployment conflicts, HQDA may waive BNCOC graduation as an eligibility requirement for promotion consideration.

Eligible staff sergeants may schedule an appointment to update their ERBs by calling 239-2973 or 239-2934.

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Area leaders meet challenge

Task force members work to ease post's growing pains

By Nicole Corcoran
Press secretary

Kansas' support of the military paid off with the expansion of its four main military installations in the latest Base Realignment and Closure process that became official in November.

With about 30,000 new Soldiers, civilian positions, family members and off-post secondary jobs coming to the Fort Riley area, Kansas' Lt. Gov. John Moore and Fort Riley area leaders have been working to meet the challenges facing a growing base.

They gathered Nov. 30 at Riley's Conference Center to hear about the status of recent efforts.

"The population in this area will essentially double in the next year. Having so many new residents is a great problem to have, but it is taking a coordinated effort to meet this challenge," Moore said. "Local leaders and residents came together and did an outstanding job in making the case for Fort Riley's continued growth, and they are doing the same now to make certain new troops and their dependents are accommodated."

Fort Riley will gain about

10,000 additional military personnel as a result of the BRAC process and the deployment of a 3,400-Soldier unit of action announced in late 2004.

"The Army is moving new units and personnel to the fort because they know it is an important military installation and the area, through extraordinary efforts, will be able to handle the influx. Working together, we'll be able to ensure a good quality of life for the Soldiers and civilians moving here, and for all of the individuals who already call this part of Kansas home," Moore said.

"The members of this task force have all made important contributions. They have truly taken a regional approach and I cannot express how grateful I am for their participation," he said to members of his task force.

"A three-star general commented during a visit to Fort Riley that word had spread around the Army about the steps we are taking here in terms of housing, education, roads, workforce development and childcare. He said it has been dubbed the Fort Riley model, which other installations are being urged to follow," Moore

said.

Because of these coordinating meetings, Junction City, Manhattan and the surrounding communities have started implementing bold measures to prepare for the new Soldiers and their families. Some of the areas the task force is concentrating on include:

Housing

Housing construction starts have dramatically increased over previous years in Riley, Geary and Pottawatomie counties. The task force is working with local developers and housing providers to ensure there are enough homes and apartments in the area for military families who will live off-base.

The task force has increased builder awareness of the situation and encouraged forums to discuss financial options, boosting the number of new units constructed in the area from a pre-BRAC 500 units per year to 6,000 units in 2005 and 2006.

Schools, childcare

Another priority is ensuring there is room in area schools and

childcare centers for the children of new residents. A 16-superintendent coalition has been formed and reports to the task force at each meeting.

Before the task force started, there was a capacity concern, whereas now there is capacity for more than 4,000 additional students. Geary County voters recently passed a school bond issue to expand their schools.

The Manhattan-Ogden school district has decided to take a school off the closure list to ensure sufficient capacity exists. In addition, nearly 70 new teachers have been hired by coalition districts.

Finally, the Kansas Legislature passed law so the state could accept a second student "head count" on Feb. 20, 2006, to ensure growing schools receive the money they will need to meet the demands of expansion.

A subcommittee team of local childcare experts has been working on compiling current information of childcare capacity in the region and in each community and an understanding of what has been accomplished to help with relocation of military families.

See Task force, Page 8

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Standard Federal ID developed

New cards will replace Common Access Cards

By Sara Wood

AFPS

WASHINGTON — A new, standardized identification card is being developed for all federal employees.

The new card will replace the common access cards that military personnel, government civilians and contractors now hold, said Mary Dixon, deputy director of the Defense Manpower Data Center.

The new cards will look much the same as CACs, with a few changes, Dixon said.

The color scheme of the card will be different, and more information will be embedded in the

card, she said.

The added information on the card will be a biometric of two fingerprints, to be used for identification purposes, and a string of numbers that will allow physical access to buildings, Dixon said.

The biggest change on the new cards will be the addition of wireless technology, which will allow the cards to be read by a machine from a short distance away, Dixon said.

This will make the new cards much easier to use for access to buildings than CACs, which must be swiped through a reader, she said.

The new cards themselves

will not be enough to grant access to all federal buildings, Dixon said. Rather, they will be checked against each building's database to determine if an individual has access.

One benefit of the new cards will be that each individual will have to meet the same security standards to get the card, so there is a level of confidence implied, Dixon said.

"It means that I can have more trust in somebody else's credential, because I will know that they met at least some basic minimum standards for issuing that card," she said.

"I will know that they did the proofing of the person and they

made sure they were issuing it to the right person, and they did some background vetting on that person. They're not just issuing it to some person that appears on the scene," she said.

A prototype of the new card is being developed now and will be finalized in the next couple months, Dixon said.

The cards will be issued starting in October to all military personnel, government civilians and qualified contractors. In the Defense Department, all employees should have the new cards within three or 3 1/2 years, she said. A timeline has not been set for the rest of the government.

Task force

continued from page 7

The subcommittee has indicated the current capacity for childcare is more than 5,500. This will be matched against anticipated growth so gaps can be filled.

from Ogden to Manhattan.

The Kansas Department of Transportation also has prioritized several projects in the Geary and Riley counties area.

Transportation

With at least 15,000 additional cars driving on area roads, making sure the transportation network will be able to handle the influx is also a concern. The recently passed federal transportation plan contained \$43.6 million to support a diamond intersection at the post's 12th Street Gate, expanding Kansas Highway 18 to four lanes from Interstate 70 to Ogden, improvements to U.S. Highway 77 and a preliminary study of a realignment of K-18

Worker shortages

Recruiting workers to help with the construction of houses and other buildings is another priority, and the Kansas Department of Commerce has secured a \$350,000 National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

It also has worked with local officials in establishing a regional Web site and promoted state-wide job fairs and advertising for construction workers and other building trades in Kansas.

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Belvoir MP wins national law enforcement event

By **Kafia Hosh**
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Army Sgt. 1st Class Donald Nelson shattered all records on his way to becoming champion at a national law-enforcement competition in Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 16, officially marking him as the fastest policeman in the country.

The Law Enforcement Officer Performance and Reaction Drill National Competition is a timed sports and fitness challenge between police officers from local and federal law enforcement agencies. It took place at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Nelson serves with the 212th Military Police Detachment at Fort Belvoir. In May, he won and broke the record at the regional contest in the Washington Convention Center, where he went against officers all over the Northeast, including New York state troopers, FBI special agents and military police from the Navy and Marine Corps.

The national championship was similar to the regional challenge and consisted of a rigorous obstacle course that simulated a police chase. The competition focused on marksmanship, foot pursuit of a suspect and the rescue of another officer in the form of a mannequin.

Nelson had to dive through tunnels, climb and jump off an 8-foot high wall, shoot 2-inch by 2-inch targets and drag a dummy that weighed more than his svelte 160-pound frame.

The 27-year-old admitted he was anxious before the competition because it was a challenge



ANS/Hunstad

Fort Belvoir Military Policeman, Sgt. 1st Class Donald Nelson, engages a target using a laser-equipped pistol during the Lawfit Trooper Challenge, Oct 15 at George Mason University.

between the best law enforcement officials.

"This was all the people who won their regional [challenge], so basically an all-star team of everyone," he said.

Nelson was directly pitted against the previous national champion. "The guy I was racing the finals [was]... the world record holder," he said. "I was definitely surprised when I crossed the finish line and I beat him."

Nelson set an unprecedented obstacle course time, clocking in at 50.2 seconds and beating his regional competition time of 1 min. and 14 seconds. He ended the course without missing a single target and attributed his perfect aim to his extensive weapons training.

Nelson is kennel master at Fort

Belvoir's MP Military Working Dog Section, but he spent four years as a skilled sniper on the Army's Special Reaction Team, the equivalent of a SWAT team. "That definitely helped me out," he said.

Nelson almost fumbled during the competition. At one point he ran toward the left when he was supposed to run toward the right. When Nelson turned to move in the right direction, he tripped and fell.

"It took me a second or two to get where I was supposed to go," he recalled. The MP said his mindset helped him to keep his composure and eventually win. It's a mindset he said is due to his Soldier training. "It's the mental toughness that you have to have for a wartime mission," he explained. "You have to be mentally ready before you're physically ready."

Nelson said his other military experience also helped.

"My daily [physical fitness] regimen that the company has outlined gave me the endurance to get through everything," he said. "Weapons qualification gave me the edge over everyone else, I wanted to shoot my weapon well."

For winning the National LEOPARD Competition, Nelson received training apparel and gear, a Carbine rifle, a gold medal and a championship ring. If he gets permission from his company, the MP said he plans to compete in next year's challenge as well.

"I have to defend my title," he said.

Kafia Hosh is a writer with the Belvoir Eagle.

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Gaming more than play for military

By Steve Alvarez
AFPS

ORLANDO, Fla. — A team of eight U.S. Soldiers fights a larger enemy force behind unfriendly lines. Three rocket-propelled grenades and three improvised explosive devices hit near the team, but they fight on, killing 35 enemies.

This may soon be one of the many scenarios introduced into "America's Army," a video game created for the Army and that is available online or on compact disc. It recently was made available commercially to the gaming community. But the virtual reality that may someday be a click away from millions of gamers is based on a Soldier's personal reality.

That firefight was real. In 2003, Cincinnati native Army Sgt. Tommy Rieman was in Iraq fighting for his life with his fellow Soldiers. His actions that December day earned him the Silver Star and a Purple Heart for the more than 30 gunshot and shrapnel wounds he suffered.

Today, the infantryman is assigned to the Pentagon, detailed to work with the Army's video game project and the "Real Heroes" program that attempts to put a face on today's military heroes.

"They're trying to take people who have been in the fight and incorporate them into the game," Rieman said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he added. "How many people can say, 'I'm going to be an action figure'?"

America's Army was launched in 2002. Today, according to the game's Web site, it has more than 6 million registered players. More than 3 1/2 million have completed the basic training phase, and more than 160,000 have joined the game since Nov. 1.

Each day, 500,000 to 600,000 missions are played, and more than 50 million hours have been played overall. The game is available as an online download. The MOVES Institute — Modeling, Virtual Environment and Simulation — at the Naval Postgraduate

School was the birthplace of America's Army. Initially sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the game's development has since left the institute.

The game is a squad-based, first-person shooter game consisting of basic training progressing to a series of team-based missions that involve operations, Special Forces and combat medic specialties. The game is different things to many. To the new recruit, it is a familiarization tool; to the Soldier, it is a training tool; to gamers, it is simply fun.

"It's good for kids that are going to join the Army," Rieman said. "I know a lot of people who play the game and enjoy it."

The basic training portion prepares and familiarizes recruits with what they will face in basic military training. At the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Fla., two Soldiers watched an exhibitor explain the basic training program. On the computer screen, a virtual Soldier demonstrated the correct way to execute a push-up.

But Rieman said the game also helps retain Soldiers and enables the public to get to know their Soldiers through the game, which incorporates the Army's core values throughout.

"It's a morale booster," Rieman said. "It's a way to look up to a normal person — a role model."

Rieman said he was in a dead-end job before he enlisted in the Army. The game takes Soldiers' heroic actions in combat and shares them with the world, showing that "This is an everyday guy who did some good things."

The Army is not alone in its venture into the gaming world. The National Guard began distributing "Guard Force" in 2002, just months after the Army released its game. The game is available at Army National Guard recruiting offices to U.S. residents.

Guard Force is a real-time strategy game using modern military equipment and units, includ-



U.S. Army Photo/Capt. Steve Alvarez
Army Sgt. Tommy Rieman plays with an explosive ordnance disposal robot simulator at the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 30.

ing M1A1 tanks and M2 Bradley fighting vehicles. The game contains six missions that take place in snow covered mountains and lush jungles, performing covert assaults, counter-insurgency and rescue.

The game focuses on the Guard's combat and non-combat missions and includes missions like training foreign forces, base protection and flood rescues, all missions the Guard has been involved with in recent years.

The Navy's Recruiting Command launched its new online video game July 15 to build interest and awareness of Navy high-tech jobs. Since then, gamers have completed more than 3,000 mis-

sions in the "Navy Training Exercise Strike and Retrieve" game. The game, Navy officials said, "provides those age 17 to 24 a chance to participate in a highly sensitive, top-secret mission and tests their skills in different areas that Sailors in the Navy experience in their everyday life."

Using video games as a way to reach potential recruits makes sense, a Navy Recruiting Command official said. "Gaming and interactive electronic media have increasingly become an aspect of this audience's daily lives," the officials said. "Accordingly, the Navy is working to reach them via these new avenues."

In one of the Navy game's sce-

narios, players are challenged to locate and secure top-secret documents from within a downed unmanned reconnaissance plane while navigating underwater terrain, battling deep-sea creatures and racing against enemy forces trying to locate the downed aircraft.

Players also have an opportunity to learn more about the Navy while searching for special codes that guide them through the game. The game directs players to www.navy.com to find the special codes. The game is available online as a single-player download online.

The Air Force launched its video game, "USAF: Air Dominance," in the last year, and according to Air Force recruiters, the game's purpose is to attract recruits and to highlight some of the service's missions to the public.

The game ordinarily is available to be played at high-profile public events, such as major sporting events. Players can select to fly three missions using the Air Force's most advanced technological hardware: an F-22 Raptor, a Predator unmanned air vehicle and a C-17 Globemaster III transport.

Unlike the Army, Navy and National Guard games, the Air Force game can be played only on computers in Air Force mobile recruiting centers. The game is designed to give gamers a short experience of about five minutes at public events, enabling them to get a feel for the Air Force, but also opening the doors for recruiters to perform their out-

reach, Air Force officials said.

The Marine Corps' video game venture coupled experiences from combat Marines with technology from the private sector to create "Close Combat: First to Fight," a game solely distributed to Marines to help them hone their combat skills. It involves a team of four Marines battling insurgents in the Middle East. The game can last more than 20 hours.

But video games are not just being used by the services to recruit, for community outreach and in retention; they also are being used to prepare the force.

For example, games like the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency-sponsored "DARWARS Ambush!" is a networked, multi-player, PC-based trainer that allows troops to experience lessons learned in Afghanistan and Iraq and to construct scenarios based on field experience. Up to 64 trainees can practice together to anticipate and respond to ambushes, IEDs and other threats.

The Air Force is developing "Avant Guard" for the Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate. This game models an urban convoy protection mission using UAVs. The player directs the UAV and manages the sensor stream to search for hostile personnel. The objective is to detect an ambush ahead of the convoy's arrival.

And the Naval Air Warfare Center has created "Bottom Gun," a periscope training game that allows players to practice missile firing.

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Military seeks talented minorities as workers

By Rudi Williams
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is reaching out to minorities to make them more aware of career and business opportunities within the department, a senior defense equal opportunity official said last month.

National race and ethnic demographics reflect a rapidly growing minority proportion, said Clarence A. Johnson, principal director for equal opportunity in the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

As America grows more diverse every year, so does its armed forces," he said at the Minority Serving Institutions Research Partnerships Conference, in Chicago, according to a copy of remarks he made.

DoD participates in these conferences as a means of reaching out to talented youth from all segments of society and to enhance the department's

capacity to recruit military and civilian employees, the retired Air Force colonel said.

"We think our participation in conference activities helps to create a pool of potential future employees who have had positive, meaningful experiences with DoD military and civilian personnel sparking them to consider DoD as their employer of choice," Johnson said.

Defense officials especially want to convey to young people how important and needed people with academic backgrounds in engineering, math and science are, he said. Johnson added that the U.S. forecast for the production of engineers and scientists is bleak.

A background in science and technology opens several windows of opportunity for an individual, to include appointment to a military service academy or employment as a DoD scientist, engineer or researcher, he said.

"Not only is the science and engineering work group the second largest among DoD's 700,000-strong work force, it is

also the career that has high potential for rising to the senior leadership positions," he added.

"Further," Johnson said, "we're not convinced that parents and those who influence the decisions of young people are always aware of the wide variety of career choices within the military or the wide array of civilian jobs available within the department."

He pointed out that careers in the Department of Defense are challenging, fulfilling and beneficial and that public service carries its own rewards.

The goal of the Minority Serving Institutions Research Partnerships Conference is to encourage, create and support the alliance between academic institutions, government and the private sector. DoD's support of the conference included hosting an exhibition and observance luncheon focused on student participation, staffing military and civilian recruiting booths and displays in the exhibit hall, and providing technical-assistance workshops.

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506th Air Expeditionary Group Photo/Wayne
Iraqi Army soldiers pose for a picture in between loading mortar rounds into an L.MTV for transport by explosive ordnance specialists.

TIKRIT, Iraq — Iraqi and U.S. forces captured more than 50 suspected terrorists in operations in northern and central Iraq Dec. 1 and 2.

During operations Dec. 2, a large group of suspected terrorists were captured by 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, northwest of Kirkuk.

The soldiers were conducting a routine patrol near an abandoned bunker when they observed 15 men digging around the bunker searching for weapons. The patrol detained the men for questioning.

Six nabbed in Udam

An IED discovery along a road near the village of Udam north of Baqubah resulted in the capture of six suspects.

A patrol from Task Force 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, discovered the IED and cordoned off the surrounding area.

After an explosives ordnance disposal team conducted a controlled detonation to destroy the IED, the six men were searched and IED-making materials were found among them.

Ar Ruashid raid success

Nine suspected terrorists were detained in Ar Ruashid the afternoon of Dec. 2 in a joint mission led by soldiers from the 3rd Bn., 1st Bde, 4th Iraqi Army Division. The mission, which included a search of the homes in the village, was aimed at disrupting terrorist activities in the area by denying them a safe haven from which to strike at the surrounding communities and coalition forces.

Suspects seized in Samarra

Two suspects were seized by Samarra Police officers after a search of their vehicle turned up

two AK-47 assault rifles and spent shell casings.

A vehicle matching the suspects' was used in an attack against police officers earlier the afternoon of Dec. 3 in which one officer was wounded.

Bomber busted in Zaglawah

Daquq Police and Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team conducted a raid in the small village of Zaglawah, where they detained a suspected terrorist bomber identified by information obtained in a previous mission.

Terrorist U-turned into trap

One terrorist suspect was captured by a 1st BCT patrol northwest of Baiji when the man attempted to make a U-turn to avoid the Soldiers. The patrol stopped the vehicle and a search revealed a 155mm artillery shell, nine mortar rounds, a 130mm rocket, five blocks of plastic explosives and an IED detonating device.

IED kills terrorist, wounds another

Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Div.'s 1st BCT apprehended two terrorists near Daquq after watching them attempt to emplace an IED.

The IED detonated as the men were placing it, injuring both men. The terrorists were taken to a local hospital, where one later died of his wounds from the IED.

The Soldiers searched the terrorists' vehicle and found a second IED that the terrorists had planned to emplace.

An explosive ordnance disposal team was called in and detonated the IED, safely destroying it and the vehicle.

10 terrorists detained in Dali Abbas

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, conducted a search of the Dali Abbas market near Al Muqadiyah to eliminate an IED cell operating in the area. Ten suspected terrorists were detained.

Kirkuk weapons cache to be destroyed

More than 4,200 mortar rounds discovered by Iraqi and U.S. forces in a major weapons cache

outside an abandoned military base near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk Nov. 27 was destroyed Dec. 5.

The final tally of recovered items near Kirkuk was 4,222 mortar rounds and more than 950 fuses. In all, nearly two tons of explosives were unearthed. By contrast, over the past two months a total of about 2,500 pounds of explosives was discovered in the 1st BCT, 101st Airborne Div., area of operations.

These reports were compiled from American Forces New Service and Army News Service articles.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, December 9, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

Community news briefly

Class teachers being sought

Child & Youth Services at Fort Riley is looking for qualified instructors for the following classes:

- Hip Hop dance instruction
- Youth and adult dog obedience classes
- Horseback riding
- Cheerleading clinics
- Basic computer skills
- Standard Achievement Test preparation
- Foreign languages
- Private tutoring
- Youth and adult martial arts
- Youth and adult cooking
- Private and group music lessons

These positions are contract paid employment. Applications can be picked up at Building 6620.

For more information, call 239-4723 or send e-mail to andersonr@riley.army.mil.

Teen Center lists activities

Dec. 10 – 9 to 11:30 p.m., high school dance

Dec. 16 – 8 to 10:30 p.m., middle school dance

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Support Center lists activities

Dec. 14 – Noon to 3 p.m., mid-week break for Spouse Activity Day

Dec. 15 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Family Readiness Group Leader Basic Training

For more information, call the Soldier and Family Support Center at 239-9435.

Students earn scholarships

MANHATTAN, Kan. — More than 4,000 Kansas State University students received scholarships for the 2005-2006 school year worth a total of \$7 million.

Fort Riley students receiving scholarships were:

Victor Attilano Arias, \$1,000, Allison Army ROTC Scholarship

Robert A. Boyce Jr., \$2,500, Memorial Scholarship Fund

Felicita Garza-Balsadu, \$1,200, Memorial Scholarship Fund

Marisela Maria Gutierrez, \$2,382, Erma Currin Scholarship and \$118 Memorial Scholarship Fund

Nicole Leticia Harrell, \$1,200, Memorial Scholarship Fund

Heidi Lavelle Paulson, \$1,250, Doris Downing Miller and Monte M. Miller Scholarship in Arts and Science.

Adults meet, talk on books

The Fort Riley Post Library hosts an adult reading group — "Book Talks." The group meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the library.

For more information or to join the group, call 239-5305.

Stay in Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Campaign collects \$175,404.19

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

A late flurry sent this year's Combined Federal Campaign over its goal. Final tabulation put this year's collections at \$175,404.92 — 116.9 percent of the goal set this fall.

Dori Farrow, chief of administration and operations for the Directorate of Morale, Welfare

and Recreation, said she was a little worried about this year's campaign reaching its \$150,000 goal. With all of the donations people have made to natural disaster relief this past year, Farrow said she thought many people would not want to donate again to the CFC.

"But, Fort Riley came through again, and that was really neat," she said. "Some people really go the extra mile."

CFC is normally a six-week campaign held sometime between September and December throughout the Army. This year's campaign at Fort Riley was scheduled to end Nov. 18, but was extended until Dec. 2 because the post's goal had not been met.

It took encouragement of unit and organization CFC points of contact to make sure they made 100 percent contact within their areas to help the CFC surpass the

goal. Just two weeks before the CFC's scheduled end, the total collected for all of Fort Riley was only \$27,000.

Two weeks later, on Nov. 18, 1st Brigade had collected about \$27,000. With the extension, the Brigade's donations jumped to \$61,841.

Totals for other groups also increased with the extra push during the extension. Ending totals for the other groups were: 3rd

Brigade, \$18,776.63; 541st Combat Service Support Battalion, \$8,000; U.S. Army Garrison staff, \$53,173; and tenant activities, such as the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Medical Department Activity and Dental Activity, \$33,614.29.

Those contributing to CFC had a choice of 1,500 charities to which donations could be designated.

Forward, march



Post/Morelock

Spouses of the 70th Eng. Bn. along with Soldiers and members of the battalion's Rear Detachment, march toward Operation Santa Claus headquarters Dec. 3 to donate toys for families in need.

Spouses, 'Rear D' keep annual toy march alive

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

Barbie dolls, toy trucks and teddy bears followed Santa Claus up Stuart Avenue on Main Post Dec. 3 as bearers sang Christmas carols during the 70th Engineer Battalion's annual Toy March.

The carolers, family members of deployed 70th Eng. Bn. Soldiers, the 70th Eng. Bn.'s Rear Detachment and families of former 70th Eng. Bn. Soldiers carried the toys in rucksacks, backpacks and mittened hands to donate to Operation Santa Claus.

Volunteer "elves" assigned to Operation Santa Claus will distribute the donated toys to families in need living at Fort Riley and in surrounding areas. The majority of the battalion's Soldiers are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but those left behind felt it was important to carry on the long-standing Toy March tradition.

"It would be great if we had the Sol-



Post/Morelock

A stuffed pegasus makes its way to Operation Santa Claus headquarters in the arms of Megan Whitney. The toys donated Dec. 3 by families and members of the 70th Eng. Bn. will ultimately be given to children at Fort Riley and in surrounding communities.

diers, but we're glad a lot of the guys from the Rear Detachment and the community have come out to support us because they know how important it is. So, we're really excited we're here to do it this year," said Kelley Paskow, whose husband is among those deployed.

The families felt the need to carry on the tradition, not just for tradition's sake, but

for the sake of those less fortunate during the holidays.

"It's important to make sure that everybody enjoys this time of year," Paskow said. "It's a special time of year and it's sad that there are some families who are struggling. Every kid should have a great

See March, Page 15

Family returns home quickly

Public Works crews repair damages

By April Blackmon
Com. Rel. Officer

The Massey family relaxed on their living room couch Wednesday night for the first time since a tornado hit Fort Riley three days earlier — Nov. 27.

Sgt. Harold Massey of the 1st Engineer Battalion, his wife, Aimee, and 4-month-old daughter, Kaitlyn, were originally told they could be in a local hotel for up to two weeks. Their house had been deemed uninhabitable after the tornado broke several of their windows and tore away siding and a tree had fallen on part of their house.

Quick responses and clean up work by Fort Riley's Directorate of Public Works and other post entities made it possible for the Masseys to return home so quickly, Harold and Aimee said.

"I was expecting one to two weeks in the Days Inn," Aimee said. "I was a little uneasy about coming home. But it was clean. I was surprised about the amount of glass they cleaned up (inside). I was worried about the baby and wouldn't have come back if there was still glass."

In addition to cleaning up glass and debris from inside their home, the Masseys said the carpet in their daughter's room was being replaced.

"The carpet was unexpected. We were told it would be one to two weeks for it to come in," Harold said. To have so much done three days after the tornado hit, "that's just unbelievable," he said.

Boards on the windows were moved from the outside to the inside and cut to fit better. Caulking was placed around the edges to help keep the cold weather out. New windows will be installed later.

"They've taken care of every-

See Tornado, Page 15

Marriage and Military Life

Food stamps not answer for enlisted pay levels

By Gene-Thomas Gomulka
Retired Navy chaplain

In response to an earlier article, "Surviving on Military Pay," it appears that while most E-5s and above do not question the results of the Government Accountability Office report on military compensation, a number of E-1 through E-4 personnel feel betrayed that GAO

did not identify some very serious flaws in the current military pay structure.

Here are some quotes from a few letters that were written in this regard:

"I am an E-4 in the Army with two kids and a wife, and there are many times that we live pay check to pay check. There are a lot of other specialists that live around me with kids, and they

too are living pay check to pay check. I would like to know where GAO took the survey from and what ranks, because anyone less than an E-5 with kids is just barely making it by...."

"My husband is deployed with a National Guard unit in Iraq. His military salary does not cover our monthly mortgage payment, and while he's gone, my three children and I use food stamps to

eat."

"While we families under E-5 receive food stamps and other funding when available, we go from pay check to pay check, robbing Peter to pay Paul."

"Could you please do your part to inform GAO that most enlisted military personnel E-5 and below qualify for some kind of government assistance, i.e. food stamps, subsidized daycare.

If my husband, a corporal in the Marine Corps, and others like him are so well paid, then why do we qualify for government assistance? My family and thousands of families like ours have to live from paycheck to paycheck, not because we are trying to live beyond our means, but because our means are above

See Military life, Page 14





Community news briefly

Spouses' club plans luncheon

The Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club will meet at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 15 at Riley's Conference Center. The luncheon will feature a gourmet cooking presentation and a centerpiece auction. The menu includes roast beef and mashed potatoes with chocolate cream filled cakes and ganache and peppermint for dessert. Cost is \$13 per person. RSVP for the luncheon to 784-8454 and for childcare to 784-2793.

Latino group to host dance

A local Latino organization plans to host a Christmas dance at 9 p.m. Dec. 10 at VFW Post 8773, 1215 S. Washington St., Junction City. Cost is \$8 per person for adults 18 years old or older. For more information, call 784-8290 or 226-2330.

Commissary posts hours

The post commissary will be open during the following days and hours for upcoming holiday periods:

- Dec. 19** – Open due to Christmas holiday
- Dec. 24** – Open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 25** – Closed for Christmas holiday
- Dec. 26** – Open normal hours
- Dec. 31** – Open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Jan. 1** – Closed for New Years holiday
- Jan. 2** – Closed
- Jan. 3** – Open normal hours

Crafts center lists activities

- Dec. 10** – 6 to 8 p.m., black and white photography class
 - Dec. 11** – 6 to 8 p.m., black and white photography class
 - Dec. 11** – 1 to 2:30 p.m., scrap booking get-together
 - Dec. 12** – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ceramics painting class
 - Dec. 12** – 6 to 8:30 p.m., matting and framing class
 - Dec. 12** – 7 p.m., crochet, knitting and cross stitch class
 - Dec. 13** – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood class
 - Dec. 14** – Noon to 1 p.m., "Make it, Take it"
- For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Military life continued from page 13

what the military member is being paid."

Anyone reading the GAO report might be inclined to wonder why many people in the military are complaining about their pay or are on food stamps when GAO reported that the "total annual cost to provide military compensation was about on average \$112,000 per active duty servicemember."

The fact is that more than half of that \$112,000 is in the form of deferred compensation, such as retirement benefits that apply to less than one in five servicemembers who will serve a full career. For the four out of five servicemembers who will never receive retirement benefits, it's the up-front pay today that is of significance. It is this pay, and not the deferred benefits, that GAO needs to carefully analyze.

The current military pay structure made sense before the introduction of the All-Volunteer Force in 1973, when most E-1 through E-4 personnel were single. Programmed pay increases for E-5 and above were not simply based upon their greater knowledge, experience and longevity, but also on the fact that most E-5s and above had spouses and children to support. Because most E-1s through E-4s were single and married only after they were promoted or returned to civilian life, the pay they received proved adequate to meet their single expenses.

One respondent concurred with this assessment when he wrote: "In the old days, not too many Soldiers in the junior ranks were married... It is different today, and we see many Soldiers that are young and in junior ranks with children... The American Soldiers' pay should be looked at and set straight. If a Soldier's family is taken care of at home, that is one thing less Soldiers have to worry about when they are deployed."

Many counselors and support agencies that provide financial and budget counseling recognize that the current pay structure for junior enlisted personnel is inadequate to support a family with one or more children unless the non-military spouse earns more than what they as a couple would have to pay for child support. The problem is, however, that many branches of the military do not make this fact known before or after recruitment.

I can think of two reasons why

junior enlisted personnel are not warned about the financial problems that await them if they marry before being promoted to E-5.

One, the military is short on recruits (particularly the Army) and informing them of this problem could harm recruitment.

Or, two, some branches of the military, like GAO, are not smart enough to recognize the inadequacy of pay for married personnel under E-5 with children.

The failure to provide more adequate financial support to married junior enlisted is scandalous.

One woman wrote, "Shame, shame for having military families deal with so many financial problems on top of the stresses of having a loved one put in harm's way. Is this the best we can do for our military families? I could go on and on at this point, but I will just say this: What a disgrace."

In so far as military counselors and chaplains acknowledge that financial problems are a major cause for marital breakdown, why should we be surprised at high military divorce rates when the current pay structure for junior personnel is inadequate to support a family?

While it would be responsible on the part of the armed services to warn personnel in the recruitment process and at basic training about the financial problems they might face as E-1s through E-4s if they were to marry and have children, it is morally irresponsible not to apprise them of this shortcoming in the current pay structure.

If we can issue warnings to people about possible harmful side effects involved in using certain drugs, we should also be able to warn people about the possible side effects of marrying in a military that does not provide adequate financial support for married junior enlisted personnel that can result in divorce, higher rates of abuse and suicide and children growing up in broken homes who themselves become prone to a variety of problems.

If military leaders really believe, as they often say, that their people, and not their weapons, are their most important assets, then they need to either increase pay for junior enlisted personnel, or warn them about potential financial problems involving married personnel under E-5 with children.

About the author

Gene-Thomas Gornulka is a retired Navy chaplain and author of "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military."

Have a question? Write Gene-Thomas at letters@plaintec.net



Col. Thomas Smith, U.S. Army Garrison commander, gestures triumphantly after he and 3-year-old Megan Wright switched on the lights of the large holiday tree in front of the post headquarters Dec. 1 after Retreat. Megan is the daughter of Maj. Michael and Colleen Wright. The annual tree lighting ceremony included refreshments of cookies, hot chocolate and coffee, music sung by a post chapel choral group, carol singing by all present and the arrival of Santa Claus and some of his elves riding in the mule-drawn wagon of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

Post/Heronemus

Ceremony turns on holiday



Post/Heronemus

Santa Claus gets a quick visit with one of several excited children attending the annual tree lighting ceremony on post.



Post/Heronemus

Scott Scherberger, chief of the Recreation Division, poses for a photo with snowman played by Spc. Ryan Gardner of Co. B, 101st FSB.

SALINA POWERSPORT
3 x 2.5'
Black Only
3x2.5 Salina Power

MID-AMERICA PIANO
3 x 4'
Black Only
3x4 MidAm Piano

FAITH FURNITURE
3 x 8'
Black Only
3x8 Faith





Liaison officer smooths waves

Childs combines military, education experience in new job

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

The post's school liaison officer brings public education and military experience to a job growing in importance in direct relation to the influx of new military families at Fort Riley.

Eric Childs moved into the newly created position in July 2005. Creation of the position shows that senior Army leadership recognizes that students in military families face unique educational challenges and that the Army is trying to help them be successful.

The job "just looked like a real neat opportunity to serve the type of student that I was," Childs said. "The opportunity to provide for the needs of military-connected students had an appeal to me, and I can relate to the type of issues those students go through at a personal level."

One such issue is family mobility. "When you move from state to state, sometimes the education requirements don't always jive," he said.

State history classes provide one example of an area where requirements differ, Childs pointed out. Many states require students to take a class on state's history. If the military family moves to a new state, the students are then required to take a class on the history of the new state, he said.

In such situations, Childs works with educators and students to make sure the new student gets credit for as many previous classes as possible.

Childs also sees further development of student sponsorship programs as especially important with so many new students headed to Fort Riley. These programs connect incoming students with peers who can give them information on the school and the area.

Fort Riley schools aren't the only organizations supporting sponsorship programs. The Fort Riley Youth Center and Army Community Services on post also provide sponsorship programs.

Childs said he thinks the sponsorship programs are great for incoming students, and he wants to see them all continue.

"It would be great if we could all get together and share resources and collaborate our

Eric Childs

Age: 41

Hometown: Fort Bragg, N.C.

Education: B.A. degree in modern languages (German) in 1989 and B.S. degree in secondary education in 1996 from Kansas State University; M.S. degree in educational administration in 2001 from Fort Hays State University.

Teaching and administration experience: Great Bend High School, Great Bend, Kan. (world history and German) from 1997 to 2001; principal in the North Central School District, Washington County, Kan., from 2001 to 2003; principal of Wakefield School, Wakefield, Kan., from 2003-2005.

Military experience: Served with the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y., from 1989 to 1993.



efforts," he said. "It would be a great idea, for example, if we could use the same people and the same training."

Childs is setting up a committee composed of people from different organizations at Fort Riley and representatives from area schools to do just that. The committee will work on coordinating all of the sponsorship programs available at Fort Riley and on developing an action plan to help with the smooth relocation of students.

In October, a team of students and teachers from Manhattan and Junction City went to San Antonio, Texas, for training on student

sponsorship programs. The Military Child Educational Coalition sponsored the event.

Childs also is coordinating Transition Counselor Institute Training with the MCEC. The program, scheduled for mid-April 2006, will be the first opportunity for many counselors in communities around Fort Riley to gain an awareness of the needs of military students, Childs said.

So far, Childs works mostly with Fort Riley schools, which are part of Geary County Unified School District 475, and other area schools where Soldiers and their families live or where new families may choose to live. In the

end, Childs estimates that residential area for Fort Riley families may encompass as many as 18 different districts.

Childs said an important part of his job as the post's school liaison officer is educating teachers and administrators at civilian schools about military culture. Besides advising the schools on issues affecting military students, Childs serves as a point of contact for parents who want information on graduation requirements or other information on the area's school systems.

Childs also acts as an adviser for military commanders on schooling and education issues and as a liaison between commanders and educators.

"It's two different worlds," Childs said about military students attending civilian schools. "Sometimes it works out and sometimes there are some conflicts we have to work through."

He admits, however, that the liaison responsibilities probably make up the easiest part of his job description. That's because of the long-standing tradition of involvement between Fort Riley and nearby school district, he said.

"I have found I don't have to facilitate between the commanders and Junction City schools. There's a lot of cooperation and communication between them and it makes my job easier."

To contact Childs about education related issues, call (785) 239-9539.



Post/Morelock

"Reindeer" Riley gnaws on a broken tree branch while waiting to participate in the 70th Eng. Bn. Toy March Dec. 3.

March continued from page 13

Christmas."

Another spouse, Denise Heinz, agreed with Paskow about the importance of the Toy March.

"It's important to take part in events like this because Christmas is about giving and giving to kids that don't have what they would like," she said.

Heinz took her two children to the store and had them pick out toys that they would like to receive this Christmas.

"I told them it was going to go to one of their friends on Fort

Riley. They went out and picked out a baby princess Disney character and the other one picked out an activity desk for traveling," she said.

The Soldiers and families met at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 3, bundled up in winter coats, scarves, gloves and festive Santa hats. At 8:45 a.m., the group started the march up the hill to Operation Santa Claus' headquarters. Santa preceded the group, riding in a wagon pulled by the mules of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

Tornado continued from page 13

thing. We haven't really had to do anything," Harold said. "And I know these guys are working long hours. They're here early, and they stay late."

"They're really polite and nice. They all had smiles on their faces," Aime said.

More work remains to be done on the Massey's home — siding,

shingles and minor issues, such as replacing the mailbox and getting a new trash can. But those problems won't keep the Masseys out of their home.

"I'd rather be here (at home) than in a hotel room, especially with (Kaitlyn)," Aime said.

While the Masseys and a few other families have moved back

home, some people are still staying in hotels or with friends, said Ellis Heights Mayor Wendy Demas.

The hope is that it will take no more than two weeks to get them back in their homes, she said.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
1 x 3"
Black Only
1X3 Lighthouse Dec TF

YESTERDAY'S ROSE ANTIQUE MALL

2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5 Open House

CENTRAL MICHIGAN U/OCP
3 x 8"
Black Only
3X8 Cent. Mich Univ 12/9 1720 m

TYME OUT
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 Great steaks, great sports

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ABILENE
3 x 5"
Black Only
3x5 HeartLand Lasix





Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Page 16

America's Warfighting Center

Friday, December 9, 2005

Sports news in brief

Water aerobics classes slated

Water aerobics will begin at Eyster Pool beginning Jan. 10. Classes are open to all active duty members, their family members, DoD employees and military retirees. Class sessions will be 5 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Cost will be \$2.50 per session or \$20 for 10 sessions.

For more information, call 239-9441.

Eagle watching scheduled

The Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center staff will host eagle watching tours Feb. 11, 15 and 18. Cost for the tours is \$6 per person, including refreshments and transportation.

The bald eagle is an endangered species that can be seen in and around Fort Riley.

People taking the tours should dress for being outside in whatever weather conditions prevail the day of the tour.

Visitors should consider bringing cameras and field glasses to view the birds and preserve memories of the trip. All tours will begin at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011 on Rifle Range Road.

For more information or to sign up for the tour, call 239-2363.

Field house classes listed

King Field House fitness staff has scheduled several activities and classes for the coming week, including:

Dec. 12 – Noon to 1 p.m. fitness yoga

Dec. 12 – 5:45 to 6 p.m., cardio pump aerobics

Dec. 13 – 8:45 to 11:15 a.m., Cardio Training Express

Dec. 13 – 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., PT powertime

Dec. 14 – 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., cardio pump aerobics

Dec. 15 – Noon to 1 p.m., fitness yoga

For more information, call 239-2813.

Teams sponsor Op Santa Claus

The Kansas State University women's basketball team will sponsor Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus during their 3 p.m. Dec. 11 game at Bramlage Coliseum. The K-State men's basketball team will also sponsor Operation Santa Claus during their 7 p.m. Dec. 17 game at the coliseum.

The first 500 patrons to arrive at the women's game and the first 500 fans to arrive to the men's game will get in free with a toy donation for Operation Santa Claus.

The elves from Operation Santa Claus will be at the doors of the coliseum to collect new toys for children from birth to age 14.

Staff sponsors swim program

The Eyster Pool staff is sponsoring a "Swim for My Life" program that encourages personal fitness by swimming laps. Each participant can earn a water bottle for swimming 25 miles, a T-shirt for swimming 50 miles, baseball cap for swimming 100 and sweatshirt for swimming 200 miles.

For information on the program, call the pool staff at 239-9441.

Fingertip tenacity



Mike Southern makes a one-handed catch for Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn., before running the rest of the way down the field for a touchdown that helped the Engineers win the 2005 post flag football championship 33-12 against Co. A, 1st Bn., 190th FA (MP Prov), Dec. 4 at Sturgis Stadium.

Engineers defeat cold, MPs for post flag crown

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Even missing a couple of key players and playing in bone-chilling temperatures, Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, won three straight games to claim the 2005 post flag football title Dec. 4 at Sturgis Stadium.

The championship game pitted the Engineers against players of Company A, 1st Battalion, 190th Field Artillery (Military Police Provisional), who claimed the 97th Military Police Battalion Pig Bowl championship recently.

The Engineers dominated play throughout the game,

winning 33-12 with a two-pass play that earned them six points on the final play of the game. After the Engineers intercepted an MP pass, Quarterback Rodney Pickett passed to Jesse Griego who, in turn, passed to Steven Hammerstone as he was slanting toward the goal line.

Early in the game, the Engineers put two touchdowns in the scorebook before the MPs could overcome the absence of six players who were in Kansas City watching the Chiefs play the Denver Broncos.

The first Engineer score came on the third play of the game. The Engineers took the ball from their own 20-yard line to the MPs' 12-yard line on the second play. Pickett pitched the ball to his tackle, Kevin Padil-

la, who slipped into the end zone for six points. The extra point attempt added another point, and the Engineers led 7-0.

Three incomplete passes forced the MPs to kick the ball on fourth down following the Engineers' touchdown.

Pickett caught the kick and launched a long aerial to Oscar Alvarez in the end zone for another Engineer score. The successful extra point play earned the Engineers a 14-0 lead over the MPs.

The Engineer defense continued to reign on the field, sacking the MP quarterback, Eddie Krebs, on the

See Champs, Page 17

Army truck racer assesses season

By William Thurmond
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – If you're in the market for a "sucker" bar bet this holiday season, you might consider this one.

What is the name of the Army NASCAR driver that started on the front row for six races in 2005, including two poles?

If your "mark" says "Front Row" Joe Nemecek, smile knowingly, signal the bartender and place your order.

The man qualifying most often in the top-two was Bill Lester, the driver of the number 22 Sun-Trust/Army Toyota Tundra race truck with Bill Davis Racing.

Of course, unless you follow the Craftsman Truck Series and

have access to the Speed Channel, you probably haven't seen him race. And that's too bad, because the truck series is perhaps the most entertaining, old-school, paint-tradin' racing venue in the NASCAR empire these days.

No restrictor plates or cut-down rear spoilers here – truck racing is the closest thing to Saturday night short track racing to be found at the pinnacle of American motor sports.

Lester, who hails from Atlanta Ga., has been racing as a hobby and as a profession since the mid-80s. A 1984 graduate of UC-Berkeley in electrical engineering



Bill Lester

and computer science, he once worked for Hewlett-Packard, finding time to race and win two road racing championships in the Sports Car Club of America's GT-3 division.

But between week-day work and weekend racing, something had to give. So with his family's backing, Lester decided about a decade ago to focus full-time on his racing career. Since that fateful decision, he's gotten rides in the Rolex, Motorola, Grand-Am and NASCAR Busch series.

In 2002 Lester started full-time in trucks for Bobby Hamilton's team in the number eight Dodge Ram truck, finishing 14th in driver's points in his 2003 season.

The next year he signed to drive Bill Davis' number 22 Toyota in that manufacturer's inaugural season.

While the Army was not his principle sponsor in 2005, it was perhaps his luckiest. With the Army logo on his truck's hood, Lester won the pole and scored his best finish, a fifth place, at Kansas in July.

Lester says he was proud to sport the Army star on his fire suit throughout the year.

"It was definitely an honor and a privilege to represent the Army, especially all the men and women overseas who are securing our freedoms. I hope I represented the Soldiers well," Davis said.

Starting on the pole at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Lester

understands why truck racing has rapidly grown its fan base over the past 10 years.

"We definitely put on a show," Lester said. "We beat and bang. Our races are more like sprints as opposed to Cup races. It's no-holds barred racing."

"One of the best things about the truck series is that you'll see former Cup drivers racing alongside drivers just starting out. You get a wide variety of driving styles so you never know what you're gonna get."

Fastest in practice and second-fastest during qualifying, Lester ran his last race smoothly despite an overnight rain delay and multiple early cautions. Only briefly out of the top-10, he finished fifth. He ended the season 17th in driver points.

Urban wildlife legends just that – legends

By Alan Hynek
Fish, Wildlife Biologist



Alan Hynek

Urban legends abound in rural America, just as they do in large cities. Wildlife legends are no exception. Some are based on theories that are biologically untrue. Others are steeped in a deep-seated conspiracy theory that is hard to break. They make a great story but do nothing to help educate the public about wildlife resources. In many ways they do

harm.

Here are a few myths, their origins and some rationale as to why they are untrue:

Myth: Throwing rice at weddings is harmful to birds.

This claim has been around for 10 years or so and was reinforced by an

Ann Landers column a few years back claiming that rice will expand in a bird's stomach and cause them to "blow up" and die.

Sounds awful, doesn't it? But have you ever seen any exploding birds after a wedding? It never happens.

In fact, birds are often big pests in rice fields. Some rice farmers may wish the pesky birds would explode,

but they never do. Uncooked, milled rice is no more harmful to birds than is rice in the field. Rice does not make birds bloat and die.

The irony in this is that a common alternative to rice is the release of balloons, which is a documented danger to wildlife.

Rice does present a danger to humans, not to birds. Scattered on a hard surface, such as the steps of a

See Wildside, Page 18





Champs

continued from page 16

next play and forcing two more incomplete passes.

The Engineers caught the MP kick and hurled another long bomb to their opponent's end zone in what might have been a remake of the second touchdown had not an MP defender knocked the ball down to end the first quarter.

The Engineers started second quarter play with the same offensive drive that earned two touchdowns in the first quarter. Two plays into the quarter they found themselves on the MPs' 18-yard line with a first down.

A miscued backward lateral dropped to the ground and moved the Engineers back to the 25-yard line and a second down.

An incomplete pass made it third down and long yardage for a touchdown, but the Engineers opted to go for the score and would have added another six points to their score had the runner not been called for protecting his flag.

That brought the ball back to the 25 and another fourth down play that went to the air all the way to the end zone. An MP defender got in the way and nearly intercepted the pass, denying the Engineers another touchdown.

Three plays later, Jeremy Jesson made a leaping catch in front of an Engineer defender in the end zone to give the MPs their first touchdown. The extra point attempt failed and the MPs trailed 14-6 when the first half ended.

Penalties by both teams on the fourth play of the second half went in favor of the MPs, who used a two-pass play from the Engineers' 35-yard line to add six more points to their score.

A two-point extra points attempt failed and the MPs trailed 14-12 as the Engineer offense took to the field.

Pickett started the Engineers' first offensive play of the half by passing to team coach Justin Casson. Casson continued the play by pitching to Mike Southern and Southern passed to Griego for another Engineer touchdown.

A short pass added another extra point, and the Engineers led 21-12.

The MPs set the Engineers on their heels on the next series of plays, moving to the Engineer 18-yard line on one play and passing into the end zone on the next.

The receiver missed the ball but an Engineer defender was penalized for pass interference and the MPs got another chance to score from the 9-yard line.

The Engineer defense rallied and rushed Krebs on the next three plays, sacking him, forcing an incomplete pass and sacking him again at the Engineer 22-yard

Other games:

Game 1 - Co. A, 1st Eng. Bn., defeated HHC, 24th Inf. Div. 26-25

Game 2 - Co. A, 1st Bn., 190th FA (MP Prov.), defeated 331st Signal Co. 21-12

Game 3 - Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn., defeated MEDDAC 27-26

Game 4 - 172nd Chem. Co., defeated HHB, 1st Bn., 5th FA, 32-12

Game 5 - Co. A, 1st Bn., 190th FA (MP Prov.) defeated Co. A, 1st Eng. Bn. 25-18

Game 6 - Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn., defeated 172nd Chem. Co., 21-14.

line, ending the third quarter.

The MPs started the fourth quarter with a fourth down and aimed a pass at a receiver waiting in the end zone, but failed to complete it.

The Engineer offense took the ball up the middle on a pass and run that put them over the mid-field mark and gave them a first down.

The MP defense stepped up to force two incomplete passes and then sacked Pickett on the Engineers' side of the field.

The Engineers combined a pass and run play that took them back into MP territory and a fourth down play. Pickett ran the ball up the middle, eluding several MP defenders before running into a wall of bodies and dumping the ball to Shamar Purdie, who continued up the middle for another score and a 27-12 Engineer lead.

The extra point attempt failed and the MPs couldn't mount another effective offensive effort before the Engineers scored the final touchdown on the final play of the game.

MP Cody Shandy (left) sprints downfield as his quarterback, Eddie Krebs launches a pass. Tim House tries to block Engineer defender Steven Hammerstone, who was a continual threat to the MPs' offensive game.

Post/Heronemus



Post/Heronemus
Engineer Steven Hammerstone (right) charges around MP blocker Tim House (left) while chasing MP Quarterback Eddie Krebs during the post flag football championship game Dec. 4 at Sturgis Stadium. The Engineers won three straight games in the single-elimination tournament to claim the post title.



Post/Heronemus
Engineer Shamar Purdie (left) grabs for a pass near the sidelines Dec. 4 as MP Nolan Gibson spreads his arms to defend against another Engineer touchdown.

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Black Only
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KANSAS PRESS
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Black Only
power sports

KANSAS PRESS
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Black Only
gentling

THE PATHFINDER
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Pathfinder

STANDARD PLUMBING
2 x 5"
Black Only
2K5 Stand Plumb Dec TF



Wildside continued from page 16

church or a dance floor, rice puts anyone who walks across that surface at risk of taking a nasty spill. It is far better to prohibit rice throwing at a wedding than to end up with an injured guest, but don't do it for the birds, do it for the laws.

Myth: Water moccasins can be found in Kansas.

It is true that cottonmouths (commonly referred to as water moccasins) are found in Kansas. However, these snakes have only been naturally found in the Spring River in Cherokee County in extreme southeastern Kansas. A few were deliberately released in the Verdigris River in Montgomery County, which is also in the southeastern corner of the state. However, none of those released snakes have been seen since 1970.

Cottonmouths are found in warmer climates of the southeastern United States. The fact that some were released but perished in the Verdigris River is a good indication of why they are not found in the Fort Riley vicinity. The weather and habitat to the north and west of Cherokee County is just too inhospitable for cottonmouths to survive. Even Cherokee County is in the extreme northwestern range for these snakes and very few inhabit the area.

Cottonmouths have an irritable disposition and their proximity to water puts them at odds with recreationists. However, very few people are actually bitten by these snakes.

Northern water snakes are most likely the cause of confusion in Kansas. These snakes inhabit areas in and around water and are heavy bodied and aggressive, much like a cottonmouth. Northern water snakes bite but are non-venomous.

Myth: Large Volkswagen-size catfish lurk at the bottom of Tuttle Creek Lake.

This one has been around for as long as the Corps of Engineers began building large earthen dams on our rivers. How big catfish can actually get is widely disputed, but the world record is 123 pounds, which was caught near Independence, Kan.

It is true that a flathead could get somewhat larger than that, but the potential for a man-eater at the base of Tuttle Creek dam is quite a stretch.

Myth: Turkeys eat young quail

This is a recent legend that has spread like wildfire. The story goes that someone found some ingested quail in the stomach of harvested turkey. There is one big

problem with this story. Either the hunter shot the turkey out of season, or the story is completely false. Turkey season occurs at least a month before quail begin to rear young.

It is true that a turkey could eat a young quail, but there has never been any proof that it has happened in the wild. Some studies were done in which domestic turkeys were put in a pen with young quail and some of them were eaten. However, extensive video studies of quail nests in the wild have not revealed a single instance of turkey depredation on quail, even with a high population of turkeys.

The origin of this legend likely comes from the fact that the turkey population exploded in this area at about the same time quail numbers started to decline. The decline in quail numbers is not fully understood, but there is no evidence pointing to turkeys eating quail as the culprit.

Myth: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks released some mountain lions to control the deer population.

This legend likely has more to do with people looking for a good conspiracy theory than actually making any sense. The story goes that KDWP (and other states) have been secretly releasing radio-tracked mountain lions in an attempt to keep the deer herd in check.

This story really has a lot of problems.

First, for any release of that magnitude there would have to be public hearings and a release of information similar to the gray wolves being reintroduced in Yellowstone National Park.

Second, why would KDWP even do such a thing? Deer hunting likely produces more income in permit sales and tourism to the state than any other wildlife. With money as tight as it is, why would they jeopardize one of their most income-producing resources?

The second part to this story is of a local hunter or farmer shooting a mountain lion and putting it in his freezer. Within minutes a conservation officer met him at the door asking to see the mountain lion.

Supposedly the animal was affixed with a radio tracking device implanted in its car.

First, the technology to have a transmitter that small with any kind of range has not yet been developed. And, if it had, the cost would be extraordinary. Standard tracking devices require a sizable battery that would be impossible to implant.

For more information, contact the Conservation Division at 239-6211 or visit www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources on the Web.



Post/Perry
Derrick Harper (right) of HHC, 4th IBCT, reaches in to prevent a pass reception by Donald Hargrove of 2nd Bn, 32nd FA, in the Dragon Bowl championship game Nov. 5 at Pacesetter Field on Custer Hill. The HHC "Dragons" beat the 2nd Bn., 32nd FA, "Patriots" 33-6 in the championship game.



Post/Perry
Three 4th IBCT Soldiers find themselves in the dust without the football after colliding during the brigade's first Dragon Bowl flag football competition.

Brigade Soldiers compete for 'bowl' crown

While working hard to stand up a new brigade at Fort Riley, members of the Big Red One's new 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took a break from work to battle on the flag football gridiron Nov. 5.

Each of the brigade's six battalions fielded a separate team for the "Dragon Bowl."

The brigade's leadership plans to make the motivational flag football game an annual event.

"We had a great camaraderie out there," said Sgt. 1st Class Sidney Curtis, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Dragon's coach. "The entire team contributed to us winning the first Dragon Bowl."

The games were held to give everybody a chance to set aside the challenges of establishing the new brigade and have a good time, while still developing unit cohesion, said Dragon player Sgt. Derrick Harper. "We haven't all been able to interact like this before," he said. "It was definitely a morale booster before the Thanksgiving holiday."

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, December 9, 2005

Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

Dec. 9 – Doom (R)

Dec. 10 – North Country (R)

Dec. 11 – The Fog (PG-13)

Dec. 15 – Doom (R)

Dec. 16 – Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story (PG)

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Fort Riley:

What: Christmas Tour of Homes sponsored by the Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley. Some of the post's historical homes have been beautifully decorated for the holidays. This walking tour (weather permitting) will feature 10 homes (two on Barry Avenue, seven on Schofield Circle, and one on Pershing Avenue). Horse and buggy rides will be available at no cost, but donations are welcome. The pick-up point for the rides will be on Barry Avenue with the drop off point at the corner of Godfrey and Schofield (Quarters 85), where visitors will begin the tour. Visitors will be picked up on the opposite side of the corner once they finish the tour and be taken back to the chapel complex. Visitors should not bring children under 12 years of age. No photography or smoking will be allowed in the homes and no smoking will be allowed on the buggy rides.

When: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11

Where: Main Post

Parking: Chapel complex on Barry Avenue

Cost: \$5 for HASFR members, \$10 for nonmembers

Phone: 784-2282 or 717-2892.

Get away and explore Kansas. Check out details on these and other events on the Kansas Travel & Tourism Web site, www.travelKS.com.

Topeka:

What: "Touch of Country" arts and crafts show

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 10: noon to 4 p.m. **Dec. 11**

Where: ExpoCenter, One ExpoCenter Drive

Phone: (785) 235-1986 or (785) 235-EXPO

Web site: www.ksexpo.com

Benton:

What: Christmas at the Prairie Rose. Experience an old-fashioned Christmas at the Midwest's largest chuckwagon supper. All-you-can eat BBQ and

Western Christmas show.

When: 5 to 9 p.m. through Dec. 23

Where: 15231 SW Parallel Road

Phone: (316) 778-2121

Web site: www.prairierosechuckwagon.com

Admission: \$15-\$25

Manhattan:

What: All in a Day's Work. Exhibition that includes images of farming and ranching.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 23

Where: 701 Beach Lane, Beach Museum of Art

Phone: (785) 532-7718

Web site: www.ksu.edu/bma

Admission: Free

Lawrence:

What: "Kansas Nutcracker." Annual performance of the classic tale reset in 1850s Kansas with Tchaikovsky's music recomposed for a mandolin orchestra. Features over 100 local dancers and actors.

When: 7:30 p.m. daily except 2 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 18

Where: 940 New Hampshire, Lawrence Arts Center

Phone: (785) 843-2787

Web site:

www.lawrenceartscenter.com

Admission: Varies

Lindsborg:

What: Heritage Christmas. Step into an 1880s prairie Christmas. Enjoy holiday music, seasonal drama, storytelling, and delicious refreshments in a beautiful setting.

When: 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 10

Where: 120 Mill St., Old Mill Museum

Phone: (785) 227-3595

Web site: www.oldmillmuseum.org

Admission: Adult \$2; children 6-12 \$1



McPherson:

What: Mac Trax Train Show and Swap Meet. Model train displays, vendor tables, door prizes, concessions, and more.

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dec. 10

Where: 122 E. Marlin, community building

Phone: (785) 227-3286

Admission: \$3, 10 and under no charge

All aboard!

Christmas musical sings to all

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A group of unbelievers boarded the Christmas Express Dec. 2 for a musical trip that brought them back home believing in the spirit of Christmas – and they never left the stage of the historic Columbian Theatre in Wamego, Kan.

They'll make the trip again Dec. 10 and 11 and Dec. 15-18 with a 6 p.m. dinner before the 7:30 show on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 12:30 p.m. before the 2 p.m. show Sunday.

The annual Christmas musical at the beautifully restored theater offers audiences a sometimes melodic, sometimes sad, occasionally raucous and intermittently humorous ride through the worst and best of the holiday season.

T-Shane Roberts stars as the train's conductor in the production of "If You Believe" that he and Director Tim Akers wrote. The two-act show features numerous Christmas songs familiar to most and others that help the story line progress through a series of vignettes that put the actors back where they began, but with a renewed belief in the wonders and warm spirit that makes Christmas such a marvelous holiday.

Audiences will experience the trials and fears that Christmas can bring as they share brief moments with a husband who never gets the right gift for his wife, a man who wonders about God, a new woman in town trying to fit in and a lively bunch of orphans who face another bleak holiday with smoldering enthusiasm that erupts in a frenzy of glee.

With more than 20 Christmas favorites sung by a talented cast of adults and children, the show ends on a happy note, leaving everyone in the theater believing in the spirit of Christmas.



Post/Heronemus

T-Shane Roberts, co-writer and conductor in the Columbian Theatre production of "If You Believe," sings about believing in the spirit of Christmas on opening night of the special Christmas production.



Post/Heronemus

The drunken director, played by Christie Horton, slumps against a wall, passed out and decorated as a Christmas tree by the orphans.



Post/Heronemus

Elf Mikaela Maschmeier helps her elf friend, played by David Maschmeier, write a letter to Santa asking for two front teeth.

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